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Viewing cable 08KINGSTON427, C) JAMAICA/SPAIN: ZAPATERO REFUSES TO MEET WITH

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08KINGSTON427**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08KINGSTON427	2008-05-15 12:09	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Kingston

Appears in these articles:

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20110531/lead/lead4.html>

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKG #0427 1361209
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 151209Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6340
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0315
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA PRIORITY 0105
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 000427

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR - JOE TILGHMAN
TREASURY FOR SARA GRAY
DEPT FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN CARIBBEAN BASIN COLLECTIVE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/14/2018

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SUBJECT: (C) JAMAICA/SPAIN: ZAPATERO REFUSES TO MEET WITH
GOLDING

REF: A. 07 KINGSTON 1089 (131155Z JUL 07)(NOTAL)
1B. 07 KINGSTON 1125 (201056Z JUL 07)(NOTAL)

Classified By: DCM JAMES T. HEG, Reasons 1.5(B) and (D)

1.(C) Spanish President of Government Rodriguez Zapatero thus far has refused to schedule a meeting with Jamaican Prime Minister (PM) Bruce Golding during the latter's upcoming visit to Madrid, according to Spain's Ambassador in Kingston, Jesus Silva. Speaking privately with Ambassador at a reception the evening of May 13, Silva expressed his government's extreme frustration with Golding's closure of RIU Group's massive hotel construction site in Montego Bay because of its alleged breach of the law in constructing a fourth floor for which it had not obtained the required permit. The State Minister in the Office of the PM, Daryl Vaz, a close advisor to Golding, sought to assuage Silva's concerns, and reportedly is meeting May 14 with RIU Group representatives at the Spanish Embassy. According to the "Gleaner" newspaper of May 14, "at least one Spanish investor has put on hold plans to construct a hotel, and two others have diverted attention from Jamaica, as the Spaniards take a wait-and-see attitude to the country's investment climate."

Background: the Spanish "Re-Conquest" of Jamaica

2.(SBU) The Spanish RIU Group operates three large hotels on Jamaica's north coast and has another two under construction. Since 2002, RIU and five other powerful Spanish groups have started construction of twenty large hotels, comprising almost 10,000 rooms, with overall Spanish investment surpassing USD 1.5 billion -- thus unseating the U.S. as Jamaica's largest source of foreign direct investment. However, as delineated reftels, this massive investment has brought environmental, infrastructure, labor, and regulatory difficulties in its wake. Over the last year, several Spanish firms have faced various allegations of unsafe and/or substandard working conditions, harsh treatment of workers, and violations of building codes.
Johnson